

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

Divisions of Boating and Waterways, Historic Preservation and Off-Highway
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Media Advisory

For Planning Purposes ONLY

December 3, 2014

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**Tijuana River Estuary Coastal Celebration
Honoring California Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.,
Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins, and State Senator
Ben Hueso with Distinguished Service Awards**

What: The Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association along with the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve, the California Coastal Commission, and the California Coastal Conservancy will honor State elected officials with Distinguished Service Awards for their tireless leadership efforts in protecting the Tijuana River Estuary and the California coast.

Who: Speakers:
Charles Lester, Executive Director California Coastal Commission
Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer California Coastal Conservancy
Dave Holst, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator, National Ocean Service, NOAA
Recipients:
Gordon Burns, Undersecretary for the California Environmental Protection Agency (accepting on behalf of Governor Brown)
Speaker of the Assembly Toni Atkins
State Senator Ben Hueso

When: Friday December 5, 2014
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Where: Atop Monument Mesa in Border Field State Park
(At the western terminus of Monument Road, adjacent to the international border.)

NOTE TO REPORTERS/EDITORS: In the event of significant rain, the ceremony may be moved to the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve Visitors Center. Please RSVP to Chris Peregrin to confirm the latest logistics on access and event plans in the event of rain or rain-related issues that may force relocation of the event.

Why: This event highlights that resilient estuaries and coastlines are fundamental to California's economy and the quality of life of all Californians. Congress recognized this in 1972 by adopting the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) including the creation of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and the national coastal zone management program. In addition to three NERRs (Tijuana River, Elkhorn Slough, and San Francisco Bay), the California Coastal Management Program includes the California Coastal Commission, State Coastal Conservancy, and the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission. The success of the California program is built on the work of these agencies in close partnership with other state, federal, and non-profit organizations such as the federal Office of Coastal Management (NOAA), California State Parks, the Ocean Protection Council and the National Estuarine Research Reserve Association. Together these organizations leverage innovation, and scientific expertise, while sharing a strong commitment to effective coastal management and resilient, thriving communities.

Info: California State Parks manages the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR) through an agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with significant cooperation by many government and non-profit partners, especially the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Southwest Wetlands Interpretive Association (SWIA).

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To provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high quality outdoor recreation. For more information, visit www.parks.ca.gov.



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RIVER
National Estuarine
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